

WASHINGTON, D.C. - A government funding bill passed by the House of Representatives on Wednesday provides \$775 million to the U.S. Forest Service for the wildfires that devastated California this summer.

"This emergency spending will help compensate the Forest Service for funds it gave California for firefighting activities," **said Congressman Sam Farr (D-Carmel)**.
"More importantly for our near-future, it also provides vital money to help prevent landslides in affected areas."

Of the total appropriated amount, \$500 million will go to fire suppression, compensating the Forest Service for funds spent fighting the summer's blazes. The remaining money includes \$175 million for hazardous fuel reduction, \$75 million for rehabilitating burned areas and \$25 million for preparedness activities.

The bill also funds several disaster relief projects within the U.S. Department of Agriculture that will help with landslide mitigation. The Farm Service Agency's Emergency Conservation Program received \$115 million, the Natural Resources Conservation Service's Emergency Watershed Protection Program received \$100 million and the Forest Service's capital improvement, maintenance and construction projects received \$105 million. Emergency funds appropriated over the summer will also be available.

"These funds will make sure the Forest Service not only maintains its level of firefighting capabilities in the future, it will also help them tackle the more immediate need to prevent mudslides from further devastating our region," **said Monterey County Supervisor Dave Potter**.
Potter . "Thanks to Congressman Farr for his help over the past few months."

"We know all too well that the fires aren't the end of the story," **Rep. Farr said**.
"Mudslides caused by scorched, barren land often cause even more damage than the original fires. We must focus our attention on this new threat, which will only increase as the rainy season advances."

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